

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY and Congressman DONALD PAYNE for hosting this important Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing this important discussion.

I would also like to thank Chairman BUTTERFIELD and Assistant Leader CLYBURN for their continued leadership and dedication to fighting racism and racial bias.

Tonight's special order is particularly important because of recent high profile events that have forced our nation to reflect on race.

Our nation continues to grieve those lost in the terrible tragedy at Mother Emmanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C. and my thoughts and prayer remain with their families.

In the wake of this senseless tragedy, Americans all over the country are asking: why do we still celebrate the Confederate battle flag? The confederate battle flag is a true symbol of hate and discrimination.

Late Wednesday night, as the South Carolina legislature debated bringing down the Confederate battle flag that had flown over its statehouse, Congressman KEN CALVERT, a Republican from California, introduced an amendment—in the dark of night—to allow for the sale and display of this symbol of hate in our national parks and federal cemeteries.

That's simply outrageous—this symbol of hate has no place at these federal landmarks. It's past time that we put away these symbols of hate and division.

It's past time that we confront America's long and dark history of racism and work to address the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow and institutional racism that continue to disadvantage too many African American families.

Now I grew up in El Paso, TX and I remember vividly Jim Crow. I remember the segregated schools and separate drinking fountains. I wasn't able to go to the Plaza Theatre with my white and Latino friends—because I was black.

Thankfully, those days of legal segregation have ended but in many ways, we know that segregation and the wounds of racism still persist.

And the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of that hate and racism. It is a symbol that only serves to divide us and that never should have existed.

From its conception, the confederate battle flag has represented white supremacy, and oppression.

In the words of William Thompson, the designer of the confederate battle flag, "As a people we are fighting to maintain the Heaven-ordained supremacy of the white man over the inferior or colored race. A white flag would stand fourth our southern cross, preserving in beautiful contrast the red white and blue"

He continues by saying ". . . it would soon take rank among the proudest ensigns of the nations, and be hailed by the civilized world as the White Man's Flag."

Mr. Speaker—I could not have put it more plainly.

This flag means hate—it always has and always will.

The intent for the confederate battle flag was to create a symbol that will remind the whole world of white supremacy, discrimination, and opposition to America.

It was also the banner under which millions fought against the preservation of our great union.

Under this flag, the Ku Klux Klan; a terrorist organization solely devoted to promoting hate and white supremacy, would unlawfully lynch blacks and burn churches to the ground.

Under this banner, lawmakers instituted laws that established and preserved segregation for generations.

And Dylann Roof looked to the flag as his guiding symbol that legitimized his actions: the murder of 9 peaceful parishioners looking to develop a deeper connection with God and their community.

Mr. Speaker—enough is enough. This symbol of hate has no place in our society—it's past time to take it down.

However, it is not enough to simply take it down. We must get serious about deconstructing the system that the Confederate battle flag represents—a system designed to close off economic opportunity for African Americans. It's past time that we get serious about ensuring liberty and justice for all.

To start, we must pass Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON's resolution to bring down the Confederate battle flag from our nation's Capital. This is a common sense step and I urge the House Administration Committee to quickly move on his legislation.

We can and must do more to put away hate and ensure justice for all.

We must start by creating good-paying jobs that are open to all Americans.

In my role as co-chair of the CBC Task Force on Poverty and the Economy and Chair of the Democratic Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity, I am proud to be working with more than 100 of my colleagues, to advance policies that give all Americans—a fair shot.

This work includes working to pass the Pathways out of Poverty Act (H.R. 2721), which I am proud to have introduced this Congress. This legislation is a comprehensive approach to address poverty in America that starts by creating good-paying jobs that empower families to build pathways out of poverty.

We also need to raise the minimum wage—and fight for a living wage because no one working full time should live in poverty.

To that end, I am proud to be a cosponsor of Congressman AL GREEN'S The Original Living Wage Act (H.R. 122) and Congressman SCOTT'S Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 2150) to

increase paychecks for families living on the edge.

We also need to fight against the disparities that persist in our health care system. The Affordable Care Act was a good start but more is needed.

For years, the Congressional tri-caucus has championed this effort by introducing The Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA). Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY will have the honor of introducing this important legislation this Congress and I am proud to co-lead this effort as co-chair of the CAPAC Health Task Force. This legislation builds on the Affordable Care Act and puts us on track to eliminate health disparities in our country.

Lastly, we need criminal justice reform. For too long we have ignored the systemic racial bias that's endemic in our criminal justice institutions and which has created an entire "missing generation" of black men.

That is why Congress should pass the bipartisan Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 1232), which I am a proud cosponsor of, to stop the militarization of our nation's police forces.

We need to pass the Police Accountability Act (H.R. 1102) and the Grand Jury Reform Act (H.R. 429) so we can ensure that deadly force cases are heard by a judge and there is more accountability among police officers.

Mr. Speaker—we have the legislation before us to start ending systemic poverty and injustice in America—let's call a vote and pass these bills.

It's time that we get serious about deconstructing the institutions that have oppressed millions and denied them and their families' opportunity to live the American dream.

But first, we must take down the Confederate battle flag—a symbol of those biased institutions.

A symbol of hate—

Of racism and

Of treason.

Mr. Speaker—it's past time to take it down.

RECOGNIZING THE TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE APACHES' 2015 NJCAA DIVISION III WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an extraordinary privilege of extending recognition to a team winning, not merely a state or conference championship, but a national title, not for the first time, but for the second year in a row. Once again, the Tyler Junior College Apaches Baseball Team has achieved national prominence by winning the 2015 NJCAA Division III World Series baseball tournament.

This back to back national title is the third national baseball championship title for Tyler

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Junior College, and marks the fifty-second national championship for TJC since athletics was first organized at the school back in the 1940s.

The TJC Apaches traveled to Kinston, North Carolina along with a host of devoted Apache fans, where the doggedly tenacious team defeated Joliet (Illinois) Junior College with a final score of 10–9. They never lost sight of their unified goal of capturing another national title for TJC. The TJC Apaches pushed onward with unmitigated perseverance and determination, despite a season wrought with weather related delays and cancellations.

A tremendously skilled coaching and administrative staff helped lead the Apaches to another consecutive victory. Those individuals include Head Baseball Coach Doug Wren (NJCAA Div. III Baseball Coach of the Year); Assistant Coaches Chad Sherman, Taylor White, and Trent Buchhorn.

The exceptionally talented, resolute, relentless national championship team is comprised of Zane Ancell, Austin Ballew, Cody Brown (Tournament MVP), Landon Brune, Jace Campbell, Derek Clemons (Tournament Elite Hitter & All-Tournament Team), Aaron Clemons (All-Tournament Team), Michael Crews, Manny Galvan, Jonathan Groff, Jacob Hickman, Chantz Holland, Tim Hunter, Jimmy Johnson, Garrett Johnston, Alex Masotto (All-Tournament Team), AJ Merkel, Chandler Muckleroy, Brady O'Borski, Zane Otten, Jared Pauley, Gunnar Quick, Reese Read, Taylor Rich, Drew Robertson, Adan Ross, Reid Russell, Sam Sitton, Weston Smart, Travis Smith, Brady Usherwood, Jace Vines, and Brandon Webb (All-Tournament Team). Of course, every great team needs assistance to round out and hold them together as a team and keep them physically on the field playing, and that help came in the very able assistance of Training Staff Eddy McGuire, Jeff Derrick, Spenser Deeken, Lynsee Jistel, and Nathan Tanaka; and Student Support Staff consisting of Chad Cunningham and Justin Doelitsch.

Without question, there is a long legacy of academic and athletic achievement at Tyler Junior College, even as it continues to reach new levels of prestige under the meticulous leadership of TJC President Dr. L. Michael Metke; Athletic Director Dr. Tim Drain; Assistant Athletic Director Chuck Smith; Athletic Department Coordinator M. Angela Clemons; and Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Juan Mejia.

One must also recognize the unwavering support of the players' families, Tyler Junior College alumni, faculty, staff members, and the entire East Texas community. Without this remarkably loyal support system, the Apaches' road to back-to-back national championships would have been a much more difficult journey.

It is with great pride that I join the constituents of the First District of Texas in congratulating the players and athletic staff of the 2015 NJCAA Division III World Series National Champions, the TJC Apaches Baseball Team, whose legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING GOTEMBA, JAPAN ON ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY AS CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA'S SISTER CITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Gotemba, Japan on the occasion of its 55th year as Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's Sister City.

In 1958 the Gotemba City Assembly took the first step in creating an exciting international bond when it voted to establish a Sister City relationship with Chambersburg, PA. With a vibrant population of nearly 89,000 people and a picturesque location near the base of Mt. Fuji, Gotemba has been an extraordinary partner and gracious host.

Originally presented as an opportunity for building friendships and exchanging ideas and cultural interests, this arrangement has created long-lasting connections and spurred experiences that any international city would be lucky to have.

Long after the first personal contact by citizens of Chambersburg visiting Gotemba occurred in April, 1960, our friendship remains strong. It is my honor to help welcome the Gotemba citizens and highlight their 2015 visit to Chambersburg, as it is not only the first of its kind in a decade but also marks the 55th year of our unique relationship. Additionally, I would like to recognize those who have built and maintained the Sister City status, for they have made this milestone and all of its positive impacts on both of our communities possible.

Today I am proud to celebrate the 55 years Chambersburg and Gotemba have shared as Sister Cities and wish this international union endless success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BREVARD SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the backbone of our economy and have historically created the bulk of new jobs in America. Wherever and whenever efforts are undertaken to encourage small business development and entrepreneurship, we make our economy stronger and provide new opportunities to hard working Americans and their families. One such organization dedicated to this cause is the Brevard Small Business Assistance Council (BSBAC).

Founded in 1985, BSBAC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the growth of small businesses in Brevard County, Florida, by providing networking opportunities, learning and coordinating advocacy on issues that influence businesses in Brevard County. Some of its members include Brevard County's local governments and chambers of commerce, banks, legal offices, the federal government and many prime contractors for the Air Force and NASA.

On August 1, 2015 the Brevard Small Business Assistance Council will achieve a great milestone in its life and celebrate its 30th Anniversary.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating BSBAC for their successful efforts over the past 30 years to support local business development, and salute their continued commitment to enhancing commercial and government procurement opportunities for Brevard County and Florida's small businesses.

RECOGNIZING KEN "KENNY" STABLER OAKLAND RAIDER LEGEND ON HIS PASSING

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman JIM COSTA of California, and Congressman BRADLEY BYRNE of Alabama to recognize Oakland Raider legend Kenny Stabler on the occasion of his passing away from colon cancer on July 9, 2015 at the age of 69.

After playing football at the University of Alabama, Stabler joined the Oakland Raiders and was their quarterback during the franchise's glory years from 1970–1979.

In his time as the Raiders' starting quarterback, Stabler compiled a record of 69–26–1, was named to the Pro Bowl four times, earned NFL MVP honors in 1974, and won a Super Bowl in 1977. He was one of the most accurate passers in football and revolutionized the quarterback position with his mobility in an illustrious career that also included stops with the Houston Oilers (1980–1981) and New Orleans Saints (1982–1984).

More than any statistics or records, (which were impressive enough in their own right), Stabler was a clutch performer who was cool under pressure. Nicknamed "the Snake," he embodied the toughness, grit, yet fun-loving spirit that epitomized the Silver and Black during a storied era.

Stabler was at the helm for some of the NFL's most iconic moments including the "Sea of Hands" completion to Clarence Davis to defeat the Miami Dolphins in the 1974 playoffs, the "Ghost to the Post" to Dave Casper leading to a victory against the Baltimore Colts in the 1977 playoffs, and the "Holy Roller" fumble he initiated to secure a victory over their AFC West rival San Diego Chargers in 1978.

In fact, NFL Hall of Fame Coach and Commentator John Madden said that if he could only have one quarterback in all of NFL history to lead a final game-winning drive, it would undoubtedly be Kenny Stabler.

Kenny's Commitment to Excellence with Pride and Poise was truly extraordinary. Along with Congressman COSTA and Congressman BYRNE, I want to acknowledge him for his stellar career and pass along my condolences to his family, friends, and the Oakland Raiders franchise.

RECOGNIZING NIKI KENNEDY'S
FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR ACHIEVE-
MENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Niki Kennedy on receiving a renowned Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award for the 2014–2015 academic year.

Niki, a Marionville, Missouri, native, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to serve as an English Teaching Assistant in Germany. The award has allowed Niki to continue learning the German language and culture after graduating from Missouri State University, while at the same time serving the people of Germany.

A Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship allows individuals to teach English and serve as a cultural ambassador for the U.S. by being placed in a classroom abroad. Niki's work through her scholarship has helped strengthen American ties with the German people and improve American relations with the country.

I am extremely proud that talented, hard-working, and dedicated individuals such as Niki represent the Seventh District of Missouri. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Niki Kennedy for her service and for receiving this esteemed award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. John Missionary Baptist Church and its parishioners as they celebrate the church's 70th anniversary. As its congregation gathers to celebrate this wonderful occasion, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring St. John Missionary Baptist Church for their contributions to the Sacramento community.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church was formed on August 24, 1945, under the leadership of Reverend Benjamin F. Davis. Their first location was known as "the little storefront church" and was located downtown on Capitol Avenue between Third and Fifth Streets. The church has been at their current location at 2130 4th Street for the last 53 years and it has thrived under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. J. D. Griffin, Dr. William E. Hights, and their current pastor, Rev. Darryl B. Heath.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church is committed to building stronger and synergistic relationships with its neighboring families and businesses. Their motto is "Small Enough to Care, Large Enough to Serve!" They do this by providing much needed social services to the underserved. An example of their exemplary work includes the Repairing the Breach Neighborhood Project which was established in 2008 and the Resource Referral Center opened in 2010, which is staffed by volunteers to assist in home ownership and financial counseling.

Mr. Speaker, as the congregation gathers for their 70th anniversary celebration, I am pleased to honor and recognize St. John Missionary Baptist Church for its important role in enhancing Sacramento's community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success and thanking them for their service to the Sacramento region.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JOHN GROSSENBACHER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Grossenbacher for an exceptional career dedicated to public service. After a distinguished 33-year career in the United States Navy, John became Laboratory Director of the Idaho National Laboratory in 2005. Since becoming Lab Director, John has dedicated himself to making INL a world-class nuclear energy research and development institution. John's tenure as Lab Director will soon come to an end, and while his legacy of leadership will endure for some time, I want to take this moment to say thank you and best wishes for the future.

When John Grossenbacher assumed command of the Idaho National Laboratory, he navigated the separation of cleanup work from research activities and the merger of two distinctly different research institutions. Since that time, John has brought a focus and purpose to INL's nuclear energy programs and he has worked with various leaders at the Department of Energy to strengthen our nation's nuclear energy programs and the important facilities in Idaho. Part of John's charge was to bring in the best and brightest to lead INL and the talent that he has brought to Idaho from other labs, industry and universities has strengthened our institution and its impact. John also spearheaded an effort to revitalize INL's facilities. Today what once was a field in Idaho Falls is now a gleaming boulevard with modern and efficient laboratories and offices. Idaho National Laboratory is now a strong, vibrant and respected institution and John Grossenbacher, the Battelle Energy Alliance, the Department of Energy, and the State of Idaho deserve credit for this enormously successful partnership.

While John pushed hard for the modernization of INL's nuclear capabilities, he also recognized that INL's unique physical and intellectual infrastructure provided opportunities to greatly expand the lab's work in national and homeland security programs, clean energy initiatives and regional partnerships. Today these INL programs are having a significant impact in their own unique areas and more and more people are looking to work with INL to solve their pressing challenges and get results.

As Laboratory Director, John Grossenbacher has steered the lab through numerous challenges and hurdles. In each of these instances, John assesses the situation, he tells you what he thinks, and he does what he thinks is necessary to solve the problem. John's candor, his unmatched integrity and his dedication to his job have ruffled feathers at times but have also brought him scores of supporters and advocates—and respect. Count me among his supporters.

John Grossenbacher has given INL a legacy of leadership and world class capabilities. John still has lots of energy and a desire to serve his country; and I am confident we will see him soon in some other significant capacity after his tenure at INL comes to an end.

Speaking for many, many others let me say, Admiral, thank you for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING VALDESE WEAVERS ON 100 YEARS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this year Valdesse Weavers, a creative design studio and state-of-the-art manufacturer located in North Carolina, celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The company is the largest decorative jacquard textile mill in North America and a leader in the design and manufacturing of jacquard fabrics for residential and commercial markets.

Valdesse Weavers began in 1915 as the Waldensian Swiss Embroidery Company, a lace and embroidery manufacturer developed by Italian immigrants. Twenty years later, Harley Shuford purchased the company and changed its name to Valdesse Weavers Inc., introducing jacquard woven fabrics to the company's product line.

Today its six branded companies—Valdesse Weavers, Valdesse Weavers Contract, Circa 1801, Home Fabrics, Valdesse International Products (VIP) and Dicey Fabrics—develop fabrics from value to high-end price points and cover the residential, contract, hospitality, health care and specialty markets.

Congratulations to everyone at Valdesse Weavers as you celebrate this significant milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRE-
MENT OF CHERYL CUNNINGHAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the retirement of Cheryl Cunningham from my staff.

Cheryl was born on August 5th, 1945 in Akron, Ohio to parents Dorothy Newhouse Smith and Charles Coker Smith. She had an older brother named Charles Huntley Smith.

Her family moved to Union Springs, Alabama when Cheryl was two years old and she grew up in this small town and farming community and graduated from Union Springs High School. Cheryl attended Troy State College and Huntingdon College following graduation from high school.

Cheryl started her career working for the State of Alabama in the tax division. She married James C. Cunningham Jr., and had three children, James (Todd) Carter Cunningham III (deceased), Leigh-Ellen and Heather Farrish Cunningham. She is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren including: James C. Ellison (Casey), Charles Tyler Ellison, Earl W. Reed (Trey), Anne Carter Reed, Michael M. Hodges Jr. and Hunter James Hodges.

Cheryl later worked at General Motors in Montgomery before buying their first farm and moving to Macon County, Alabama in 1972. Cheryl became involved in the community of Franklin and was part of the successful effort to incorporate the Town of Franklin in 1977. She served as the first town clerk under Mayor Robert Perry.

Later, Cheryl was hired by Alice Hendon, Tax Assessor of Macon County and by her successor, Ed Corbitt, Revenue Commissioner to serve in their offices as well as serving as Executive Secretary to Macon County Commission Clerk, George Austin in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Cheryl became very active in the Macon County Republican Club and served as County Chairman for several years. She also served as County Coordinator in Macon County for an unsuccessful run by Emory Folmar for Governor of Alabama. She was appointed by Governor Guy Hunt to serve as Chairman of the Macon County Board of Registrars and served many years under Gov. Hunt and Gov. Fob James. She also served as President of the State Board of Registrars for two terms.

In 2000, Cheryl was hired as a Field Representative for Congressman Bob Riley working for him until he was elected Governor of Alabama in 2002. She continued to work for the Third District in my office and will retire on July 31st.

Cheryl served as a member of the Alabama Federation of Republican Women and was later elected as District 3 Director. During her tenure, the first women's Republican club in District 3 was established, the Republican Women of East Alabama.

The Cunningham family loves farming and caring for animals. At present, they have two dogs, three horses, two cats and a pet goat, Bentley. In the past, they have had bob cats, deer, skunks, raccoons, an opossum, flying squirrels and a 650 pound pig named Blossom.

Cheryl attends First United Methodist Church in Auburn, Alabama, is a member of the Macon County Farmer's Federation, Alabama Forestry Association and serves on the Board of Directors for Sunset Point I Condominium Association at Lake Martin.

Cheryl and her husband continue to give back in Macon County. One of their biggest joys is running the Todd Cunningham Christmas Memorial Fund in honor of their late son. Last year they served over 38 families in Macon County that would have not had gifts for their children at Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing a great lady and thanking her for her public service, philanthropic spirit and the great work she did for the Third District. Cheryl, we will miss you, but congratulations on your retirement.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEO BRUNING ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Leo Bruning on the occasion of his 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on August 15, 2015.

After graduating from San Jose State in 1937 and working as a teacher and coach at Hayward High School until 1940, Lieutenant Colonel Bruning began his military service by joining the Army with the 7th Quartermaster Battalion stationed at Ford Ord in Monterey, California. After the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, he immediately took up training to become a pilot and served in that capacity on the homefront throughout World War II.

Once the need for Army pilots subsided and Lieutenant Colonel Bruning was discharged, he wanted to continue his military service to his country so he joined the Air Force. He was stationed in Vienna, Austria to provide support to U.S. embassies in Budapest and Bucharest in the years immediately after World War II, working under constant tension as his airbase was inside of the Soviet sector of the city.

In 1952 Lieutenant Colonel Bruning returned home and left active duty, but he enlisted in an Air Force Reserve program for troop transport. During the next five years Lieutenant Colonel Bruning led his squadron in compiling a total of 2,600 hours of flying on 23 different types of military aircraft. He remained in the Reserves until his 60th birthday with 35 years of military service.

In addition to his military service, Lieutenant Colonel Bruning has been an active member of the Dublin community for 52 years and was a successful business executive for a local ladder company.

I want to acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel Bruning and extend my sincere appreciation for his stellar career of service to our nation and wish him well as he celebrates this significant milestone of reaching his 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATROLMAN JOHN J. WILDING FOR SERVING AND PROTECTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrolman John Wilding, whose faithful watch ended this past Sunday morning, July 12, due to injuries sustained while on duty, and those injuries tragically ended Patrolman Wilding's life the next day.

A native son of Scranton, Pennsylvania, John Wilding joined the Scranton Police Department in April 2014, after working for years to earn his place on the force. John's passion to serve and protect his city was exhibited in his work. A fixture in his community, John would regularly check in with local businesses and talk to West Scranton High School students on their way home from class as part of his policing duties.

Early this past Saturday morning, John responded to reports of a stolen vehicle in Scranton. During a pursuit, suspects exited this vehicle near the 300 block of North Main Avenue. Several officers, including Patrolman Wilding, pursued the perpetrators on foot. During the chase, John leapt over a wall not realizing that a fifteen-foot descent was on the other side. He suffered a serious head injury as a result of the fall. John succumbed to his injuries the next day at Geisinger Community Medical Center.

Patrolman Wilding is survived by his wife, Kristen Tansits Wilding, his daughter, Lola Mae, his son, Sidney Wolfgang. He was a dedicated provider for his family, but, beyond that, he was a loving husband and a playful, devoted, and protective father to his children.

It is a great tragedy to lose such a highly regarded officer of the law and an honest, well-respected man. I am grateful for John Wilding's bravery, his public service, and his dedication to our community. His watch has now ended; may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MS. MADISON KING

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Madison King of Orlando, Florida, for her acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Ms. King was selected for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Ms. King benefitted greatly from her participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING JUAN FELIPE HERRERA

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Juan Felipe Herrera, the United States' newest poet laureate and the first Latino poet laureate. As the son of migrant farmworkers and as a Chicano civil rights movement activist, Mr. Herrera serves as an inspiration to Latino Americans everywhere. His poetry sheds light on the Mexican-American experience and allows people of all generations and backgrounds to appreciate his artistry and history.

Mr. Herrera was most recently the California poet laureate from 2012 to 2014. He retired in March from the University of California, Riverside where he worked as a professor. Mr. Herrera was a Redlands resident and we are so honored and proud to have had him play a role in the Inland Empire community. He brought our community into his world, engaging Redlands residents in his state project "The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World." The 170-page poem included submissions from hundreds of people across the state, including those in the Inland Empire.

Today we thank Mr. Herrera for sharing his gift with all of us and for giving Latino Americans a voice in the world of poetry. We are so proud of what he has accomplished and commend him on the distinguished honor of being

the poet laureate of the United States, and the first Latino poet laureate in American history.

CONGRATULATING YADKIN VALLEY MOTOR COMPANY ON 100 YEARS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Yadkin Valley Motor Company in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

It is the oldest Ford dealership in the Carolinas and 20th oldest out of about 3,100 Ford dealerships nationwide.

A.F. Kilby was the first of four generations of Kilbys to sell Fords at Yadkin Valley. His son, Andrew "Bud" Kilby, and grandson, John Kilby Sr., now own the dealership. At 89 years old, Bud still works at the dealership six days a week. John serves as general manager, and his son, John Kilby Jr., is a salesman and Internet manager.

In May more than 1,500 people turned out for a special car show marking the 100th anniversary. Several hundred vehicles, including a number of antique Fords, participated.

Congratulations to the Kilby family and everyone at Yadkin Valley Motor Company on this significant milestone.

CONGRATULATING MARY ELLEN KLINCK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a friend and stalwart in the town of East Haddam, Connecticut, Mary Ellen Klinck. This week she will be honored with the Frank Davis Award from the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for her lifelong commitment to fairness and justice. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mary Ellen for her lifetime of service.

Mary Ellen's involvement in local government, state government and Democratic politics spans decades and has left a huge footprint of people she has helped and public officials she has helped elect. She has served as the Commissioner of the State Department on Aging, on the Connecticut State Environmental Committee, as an East Haddam Selectwoman, a member of the East Haddam Economic Revitalization Committee, the East Haddam DTC Chair and executive board member, as a member of the Democratic Women's Club, as a volunteer for countless Democratic campaigns, and of course, as a candidate herself.

The first time I met Mary Ellen she was a freshman state representative in 1987, when she worked with the new Democratic majority to permanently enact a state prescription drug program for seniors—known as the CONNPACE program. At the time, Medicare provided no coverage for outpatient prescription drugs and under Governor William O'Neill, and Commissioner Klinck, Connecticut became one of a handful of states to step up and provide affordable lifesaving medications. It took over 15 long years before Congress created Medicare Part D and followed Mary

Ellen's vision for strengthening the health care of America's elderly.

After her historic term as Commissioner of the State Department on Aging, Mary Ellen continued to be a force of nature in public life, advocating for small business, the environment, and helping aspiring candidates for public office, such as yours truly who will be eternally grateful for all her help in my election to Congress in 2006 by the slender margin of 83 votes.

A tireless advocate for seniors, the environment, local small businesses and the history and culture of East Haddam, Mary Ellen's energy and dedication is unmatched. The East Haddam community is fortunate to have her experience and enthusiasm as a constant force for good. Few know East Haddam as well as Mary Ellen, and even fewer have devoted as many hours of their time working tirelessly to improve community life for its residents. I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Ellen for this well-deserved honor.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,879,901,274.20. We've added \$7,525,002,852,361.12 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.